

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2272

LIMDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR EHRLICH, DHEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO TBIO OTRA

SUBJ: WHO THINKING ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS FOR WHA, IN
CONJUNCTION USG TEAM VISIT APRIL 8-10

REF: A. STATE 057336, B. STATE 058410, C. GENEVA 2251

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTELS A AND B, MISOFF MET WITH ADG BERNARD, DR DAVIS, DR HAMON AND DR GRATZ TO DISCUSS WHO ROLE IN SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL TO BE PRESENTED TO WHA IN MAY. UNFORTUNATELY DR LAMBO, DR GOODMAN, DR DIETERICH AND DR LEPES WERE IN TRAVEL STATUS.

2. UNDER DR LEPES, DR DAVIS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING WHO SCHISTOSOMIASIS STRATEGY IN RESPONSE 55TH EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION 22. HIS REPORT TO BE PRESENTED WHA IN MAY IS NOW READY. MISOFF WILL MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO USG SCHISTO TEAM UPON ARRIVAL, PRIOR TO APRIL 9-10 MEETING AT WHO, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL C.

3. MISOFF REPORT AND IMPRESSIONS ON DR DAVIS MEETING FOLLOW. MISOFF CAME AWAY FROM MEETING, WITH IMPRESSION ONLY, DR DAVIS APPREHENSIVE USG WILL PUSH TOO FAST FOR GLOBAL STRATEGY WITHOUT FULLY UNDERSTANDING COMPLEXITY OF
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SCHISTOSOMIASIS. REF PARA ONE, REFTEL B, MISOFF CALLS

DEPT'S ATTENTION TO DAVIS STATEMENT HE HAS NOT REPEAT NOT UNDERTAKEN A NEW QUOTE ANALYSIS OF CONTROL MEASURES WITH INTENTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR DIFFERENT STRATEGIES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR CONTROL OPERATIONS ON GLOBAL BASIS END QUOTE.

4. DR DAVIS EXPLAINED SUCH ANALYSIS IN VIEW HIS PRESENT WORK LOAD WOULD TAKE HIM NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS. HE ADDED NOTHING MUCH HAS HAPPENED REGARDING CONTROL MEASURES SINCE 1972; FURTHERMORE, HE INFORMED MISOFF AN ANALYSIS OF CONTROL SCHEMES OVER PAST TWENTYFIVE YEARS IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY NON-WHO COLLEAGUE, DR W JOBIN, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO WHO.

5. SUMMARIZING DAVIS MEETING, MISOFF BELIEVES USG SCHISTO TEAM MAY FIND WHO STILL LONG WAY OFF FROM PRESENTING, IN TIME FOR WHA, WHO STRATEGY AND COORDINATOR ROLES OUTLINED IN PARA ONE, REFTEL B; IN PARTICULAR, IN TERMS COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES, PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN PLANNING OF WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND IN UNDERTAKING OF NEW ANALYSIS OF CONTROL MEASURES TO IDENTIFY VARIOUS STRATEGIES NEEDED FOR WHO GLOBAL PROGRAM.

6. ACCORDINGLY, BELIEVE APRIL 9-10 MEETING OF USG SCHISTO TEAM COMPRISING DR KAISER, DR STOCKARD AND MR WALSH WITH ADG BERNARD AND WHO STAFF NAMED IN REFTEL C TIMELY AND ESSENTIAL. MISOFF SUGGESTS USG TEAM MAY WISH EXPLORE SITUATION MORE FULLY APRIL 10, FOR WHICH ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. FURTHERMORE, DR EHRLICH OR DR HOWARD MAY WISH ATTEND MEETINGS ON APRIL 10.

7. REF PARA 2, REFTEL B: ACCORDING TO ADG BERNARD, DEPT CORRECT IN ASSUMPTION NEW WHO RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN PARASITIC DISEASES FOR AFRICA WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE WHO'S MAIN THRUST IN DEALING WITH SCHISTOSOMIASIS, ALTHOUGH DR BERNARD STATED SCHISTOSOMIASIS WILL BE GIVEN NUMBER TWO PRIORITY AMONG SIX DISEASES TO BE INCLUDED IN AFRICA RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, WHICH WILL BE CLOSELY TIED TO ONGOING WORK OF DR LEPES AND DR DAVIS IN MPD.

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8. SUMMARIZING ADG BERNARD MEETING, MISOFF WAS TOLD DR DAVIS' SCHISTO DOCUMENT FOR WHA IS READY EXCEPT FOR LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS; REPORT WILL BE BROAD; SCHISTO PROGRAMS WORLD-WIDE WILL BE INVENTORIED; MEASURES TO COMBAT DISEASE WILL BE FRAMED; AND ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO DEFINE GLOBAL STRATEGY WITH AN OUTLINE OF PROSPECTS FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

9. REF PARA 3, REFTTEL B: ADG BERNARD INFORMED MISOFF WHO BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH USG, IN PARTICULAR, IN ASSUMPTION WHO TO PLAY GLOBAL COORDINATOR ROLE. HOWEVER, HE HEDGED SOMEWHAT ON HEARING USG POSITION WHO ITSELF NOT REPEAT NOT ENGAGE IN OPERATIONAL OR BASIC RESERACH PROGRAMS IN SCHISTOSOMIASIS. WE BELIEVE THIS NOT REAL PROBLEM. EVEN SENIOR WHO STAFF STILL NEED MORE TIME TO UNDERSTAND FULLY DG MAHLER AND USG POSITION OF WHO AS WORLDWIDE COORDINATOR IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH.

10. REF PARA 3A, REFTTEL B: BOTH ADG BERNARD AND DR DAVIS REFERRED TO RECENT WHO MEETINGS WITH UNEP ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS, AND BOTH ARE IN AGREEMENT WHO AND UNEP SHOULD COME UP WITH SCHISTO IMPACT STATEMENT AS PART OF ANY FUTURE WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PRIOR TO THEIR APPROVAL. WE NOT SURE TOO MUCH OTHER WHO COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES THUS FAR UNDERTAKEN AND USG SUGGESTS USG SCHISTO TEAM MAY WANT TO CATALYZE IN THIS DIRECTION DURING APRIL 9-10 MEETINGS.

11. REF PARA 3B, REFTTEL B: ADG BERNARD IN FULL AGREEMENT ON WHO ROLE IN GATHERING STATISTICS ON WHAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING. HE EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN RECEIVING USG INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED OUT IN US OR BY US INSTITUTIONS OVERSEAS, ADDING THAT SUCH INFORMATION, IF RECEIVED PRIOR TO WHA, COULD BE MADE AN ADDENDUM TO WHO REPORT TO WHA. DR BERNARD AGREES OCTOBER 1975 CAIRO CONFERENCE ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS CAN ALSO BE USEFUL TO SHO STRATEGY ROLE BUT INDICATED PLANNING FOR CAIRO CONFERENCE MOVING SLOWLY. MISOFF UNDERSTANDS FROM BERNARD BRIEFING, HOWEVER, THAT DR EHRLICH, DHEW/OIH, HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN COMMUNICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN GALVANIZING MINISTRY INTO DEFINING INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES TO CONTROL OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS RATHER THAN SIMPLY EXCHANGING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION.

12. REF PARA 3C, REFTTEL B: AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, WE BELIEVE USG SCHISTO TEAM WILL FIND WHO WEAK IN AREA OF ECONOMIC IMPACT AND COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES AND SUGGEST MR WALSH OF USG TEAM MAY WANT TO EXPLORE THIS AREA THOROUGHLY DURING APRIL 9-10 MEETINGS.

13. REF PARA 3D, REFTTEL B: ADG BERNARD AND DR DAVIS ALSO CONSIDER CONSORTIUM CONCEPT, SIMILAR TO ONCHOCERCIASIS PROJECT IN WEST AFRICA, DESIRABLE AT APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT STAGE IN SCHISTO PROGRAM.

14. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH DR HAMON AND DR GRATZ IN VBC, BOTH AGAIN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VBC DRAFT PROPOSAL ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS FORWARDED TO DHEW/OIH OCTOBER 24, 1974, FOR INFORMAL REVIEW BY DHEW AND AID. DR LEPES AND DR DAVIS DO NOT REPEAT NOT CONSIDER VBC'S PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL OF LAST YEAR AS FITTING INTO OVERALL WHO STRATEGY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. NONETHELESS, DR STOCKARD OF USG TEAM CAN EXPECT TO BE QUERIED BY VBC AS TO AID'S INTEREST IN PROPOSAL, AS WILL DR EHRLICH AND DR HOWARD, IF THEY ATTEND APRIL 10 MEETING. USG SCHISTO TEAM PROBABLY KNOWS THERE ARE SOME PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSIES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF VBC AND MPD. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT MPD WILL WIN OUT.
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